Clearance of Upper Lanth Irrigation Project in Orissa

2629. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
SHRIMATI SUSHREE DEVI:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Upper Lanth Irrigation Project in Bolangir district of Orissa is pending with Government for clearance;

(b) whether Government are also aware that the project on completion would irrigate vast areas of land especially in the drought-prone blocks of KBK districts; and

(c) if so, the present status of the case?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) to (c) On receipt of the project proposal, the same was sent to the ST & SC Development Department, Government of Orissa for furnishing additional information.

Autonomous District Councils for Welfare of STs

2630. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of population of Scheduled Tribes in the country;

(b) the number of Autonomous District Councils for the welfare of Scheduled Tribes;

(c) whether the tribal people in the States, other than those in the North-Eastern region, have been demanding Autonomous District Councils in their respective States;

(d) if so, the steps taken; and

(e) if not, whether Government have any such plan?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) As per 1991 census, the population of Scheduled Tribes in the country was 8.08 per cent.

(b) There are 19 Autonomous District Councils and all are located in North-Eastern States.

(c) The Ministry has not received any such proposal from the States other than those in the North-Eastern region.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

Survey on death of tribal children in Thane District

2631. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the recent survey published by the Pune-based Tribal Training and Research Institute confirming that deaths of 69 per cent of the 26 tribal children in Thane district during April-August were due to malnutrition, respiratory disorders, convulsions, etc.;

(b) if so, whether such deaths are restricted to tribal children only or this is the general state of affairs in Maharashtra; and

(c) the steps being taken that tribal children especially in Maharashtra and also all over the country are taken care to avoid recurrence of such a tragedy?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRIJUAL ORAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A copy of the report of Tribal Training & Research Institute, Pune has been forwarded to the Government of Maharashtra for the views of the State Government on findings and observations of the report and to take necessary action.

The Ministry of Tribal Affairs is implementing the Grain Bank Scheme to take preventive measures against death of children in remote and